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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT Production Situation at Maximilianshütte Unterwellenborn (Thuringia)

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1. Blast Furnace Production

There are four blast furnaces. Furnace I has about 300 cubic meters of usable furnace space; Furnaces II, III, IV, about 400 to 450 cubic meters each. Furnaces I to III are old. Furnace IV is a new installation which began production in January 1948. The furnaces have worked as follows: In the first half of 1948, Furnace III; in the second half of 1948, Furnace I; March to May 1949, Furnace II; January and February 1949 and since June 1949, all four furnaces blast simultaneously. Full capacity cannot be utilized because there appears to be a shortage of blast apparatus. One additional turbo blower (Turbogebläse) driven by an electric motor is reported to be ready for installation in several weeks. Expansion of the inadequate gas purification plant is planned for 1949. A lack of equipment has resulted in the loss of considerable amounts of blast furnace gas.

2. Pig Iron Production

Normally, two large furnaces blast Thomas pig iron. Under present conditions production capacity for Thomas iron is 250 to 300 tons daily/furnace. The furnaces work with basic slag. Scrap rate for Thomas iron is 60 percent; for raw iron 50 percent. The following conversion factors serve capacity calculations:

Thomas pig iron = 1.5 times the amount of foundry pig iron
" " " = 2.2 times the amount of specular iron (with 10% to 20% Mn).

If one furnace blasts 300 tons of Thomas pig iron daily, it can produce only 200 tons daily of foundry iron, if converted. These factors apply only to the present production situation (furnace charge mixture (Möller), scrap rate, etc.). The charge consists only of indigenous ores from Schmiedefeld and Wittmannsgereuth as well as Kansdorf, i.e. limestone containing 5 percent Fe (eisenschüssiger Kalkstein mit 5% Fe). In order to use the finer parts and the accumulating calcined pyrites (Kiesabbrände) in the Eastern Zone, which pile up at the rate of about 10,000 tons a month (containing partly CU and Zn), the construction of an ore sintering installation (Erzsinteranlage) based on the Greenawalt process is planned. Licensee for Mr. Greenawalt (USA) is Krupp-Gruson (SAG) and/or Lübecker Erzkontor. Negotiations over the license agreement have been carried on for a considerable period of time. One and a half million DM Ost is to be provided for the construction of a sintering plant in 1949; the

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total cost is expected to reach five million DM.

Difficulties have been encountered at the Thomas iron production because of the lack of phosphorus in the ore furnace charges (Möller). Thomas slag goes, therefore, almost exclusively into the charge mixture (Thomasmöller), since, aside from the low phosphorus content, the ores have no other actual phosphorus containing components. Production of Thomas meal (basic slag) consequently equals zero. Negotiations for the import of phosphorite have been going on for about two years. A shipment of cola apatite recently arrived in Stettin. During the unloading more than 100 tons are reported to have become wet. In order to improve the production capacity and quality of foundry products, a pig machine (Masselgiessmaschine) is under construction which should begin producing in the near future.

3. Thomas Steel Plant

This plant has four converters each with a 15 ton capacity. The very unfavorable converter form requires a long blowing time, which causes a high N_2 content of the Thomas steel. As a result of the deficient quality of the Thomas pig iron, there have been many complaints about the rolled steel produced by the Maximilianshütte from Thomas products. Professor Sedlaczek has endeavored to remove these difficulties by the addition of Fe - Al - alloy to the Thomas steel ("Vesta 48", similar to Alto steel). The effectiveness of these measures is still disputed.

4. Electro Steel Plant

This plant has two electric arc furnaces each of 18 tons capacity. Production capacity in cold charges runs between 2,000 and 2,500 tons monthly.

5. Rolling Mill

Between the summer of 1948 and the spring of 1949, two new, deep furnaces were constructed for the processing of cold-produced Siemens-Martin steel ingots delivered by the Hennigsdorf and Riesa steel works. The rolling mill has four deep furnaces (cell furnaces with regenerating firing and the choice of blast furnace gas or generator gas). The amount of Siemens-Martin steel rolled in the Maximilianshütte is 0.8 of the total amount of rolled steel, disregarding the Thomas and electro-steel.

6. Pressing Plant

At present, ball bearing casings, gears for motor vehicle engines, crane hooks, special parts for vehicle construction (bolts, etc.) are produced.